

BOROUGH OF CALNE

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1947

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BOROUGH OF CALNE, Wiltshire.

Medical Officer of Health Annual Report 1947

A. M. H. N. D. M. B. N. T.

My Annual Report in respect of the Borough of Calne, Wiltshire for the year 1947 is amended as follows:-

Page 2 under "Vital Statistics"

against "Live Births" delete total "79" and insert "89"

against "Legitimate" delete Total "79" and insert "87"

against "Rate" delete "14.6" and insert "16.5"

11th. Jan. 1948.

*W. H. Monkford.*  
Medical Officer of Health



**BOROUGH OF CALNE**  
**Public Health Officers of the Authority**

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(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.  
C. L. Broomhead, M.D., D.P.H.,

(b) SANITARY INSPECTOR.  
T. V. OLIVER, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., who in addition  
holds the post of Borough Surveyor.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough  
of Calne.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year  
ended 31st December, 1947.

This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular, 170/47  
dated 31st December, 1947.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,  
C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,  
Medical Officer of Health

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	1,276
Population (1947)	5,387
No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947 according to Rate Book)	1,576
Rateable Value	£30,165 0 0
Sum represented by penny rate	£116 1 7¾

## Vital Statistics for 1947.

	Total	M.	F.	Rate. E & W.	Cf.
Live Births	79	44	45		
Legitimate	77	43	44		
Illegitimate	2	1	1		
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)				14.6	20.5
Still Births	5	3	2		
Rate (per 1,000 total population)				.92	.50
Deaths	57	23	34		
Rate (per 1,000 population)				10.58	12.0
Deaths from Puerperal causes					
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0		
Other Maternal causes	0	0	0		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 yr.					
All Infants per 1,000					
Live Births	1	0	1	12.6	
Legitimate infants per 1,000					
legitimate live births	1	0	1	12.9	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000					
illegitimate live births	0	0	0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	7	4	3		
"    "    Measles "	0	0	0		
"    "    Whooping					
Cough (all ages)	0	0	0		
Deaths from Diarrhoea					
under 2 yrs. of age)	0	0	0		
Deaths from Influenza	0	0	0		
"    "    Respiratory					
Diseases (21, 22, 23)	4	1	3		
Deaths from Diseases of					
Heart & Blood Vessels.	27	10	17		
(18,19,20)					

Both the birth rate and death rate are lower than during the year 1946 when they were 17.9 and 12.6 per 1,000 of the population respectively. There is a marked reduction in the death rate of infants under one year.

## Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring in the Borough during the year 1947.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	3	—
Diphtheria	1	1
Whooping Cough	3	—
Measles	54	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—
Dysentery	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Menin- gitis	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—

A solitary case of Diphtheria was reported during the year, but was subsequently confirmed as not Diphtheria, but tonsillitis. It will be noted that no cases of Poliomyelitis, or Infantile Paralysis, were notified during the year under review.

## Deaths from all Causes

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Parat. fevers	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0	0
Scarlet fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of resp. sys.	0	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Ac. Polio-myel. & polio-enceph.	0	0	0
Ac. inf. enceph.	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph. (M) uterus (F)	0	1	1
Cancer of stomach & duodenum	0	1	1
Cancer of breast	0	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	4	0	4
Diabetes	0	0	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	3	8	11
Heart dis.	7	8	15
Other dis. of cir. sys.	0	1	1
Bronchitis	1	3	4
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Other resp. diseases	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	0	0	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years	0	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0	0
Other digve. dis.	2	0	2
Nephritis	1	1	2
Puer. & post abort sepsis	0	0	0
Other maternal causes	0	0	0
Prem. birth	0	0	0
Con. mal. birth. inj. infant. dis.	0	1	1
Suicide	1	1	2
Road traffic acc.	3	0	3
Other violent causes	0	1	1
All other causes	1	6	7
Total	...	28	34
			57

# TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and mortality.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5				2				
15							1	
25								
35		1						
45								
55								
65								
and upwards								
Totals		1	2				1	

Only three new cases of T. B. have been notified during the year, which compares favourably with 7 new cases notified during 1946. Deaths from T. B. are also lower this year.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### RAINFALL.

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day; from this information the following table has been compiled:—

Month		Total Rainfall Inches.	Greatest Fall in 24 hrs.		Number of days with .01 or more recorded.
January	...	2.01	.30	30th	13
February	...	1.24	.46	9th	5
March	...	4.97	.95	5th	20
April	...	2.17	.54	5th	10
May	...	2.21	.38	15th	14
June	...	1.75	.42	14th	12
July	...	2.65	.58	30th	13
August	...	0.74	.52	4th	5
September	..	1.56	.49	19th	8
October	...	0.52	.26	21st	6
November	...	2.11	.69	18th	13
December	...	2.75	.49	3rd	13
		24.68			132

During the year there was a dry spell between 5th and 19th August inclusive immediately followed by an absolute drought which continued until 10th September. Also there was a partial drought between 21st September and 20th October inclusive. There was a further dry spell between 8th and 22nd December inclusive.

In the previous year August was the wettest month (5.54 inches) and March was the driest (0.91 inches).

The average rainfall for the previous 5 years was 29.654 inches.

## WATER SUPPLY

After prolonged negotiations the water undertaking was purchased by the Town Council from the Calne Water Works Company Limited in December 1947 for the sum of £17,500 0 0.

The supply is obtained from Lower Greensand Springs at Calstone Wellington, about 3 miles to the south-east of the town in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

It is of good quality and non-plumbo solvent. The water is chlorinated at the source.

The consumption per capita per diem is 26 gallons for all purposes.

The number of houses still relying on well water for their domestic supply is 20 or 1.24% of all the inhabited houses in the district. Half of these houses are beyond the existing water mains and the other wells have been subjected to analysis and have been passed as fit for potable purposes.

There are no street standpipes.

Samples of town water are taken frequently for bacteriological examination and the Analysts' Reports on the raw water are invariably to the effect that it shows no evidence of harmful pollution.

The latest Chemical and Bacteriological Report is as follows:—

Appearance	Clear and bright
Chlorine residual	Nil
pH value	7.03
Chemical Examination	
Total solids	39.0 parts per 100,000
Chlorine as Chlorides	1.2 " " "
Nitrogen as nitrates	Nil
"    "    "	0.14 parts per 100,000
Free and saline ammonia	0.0028 " " "
Albuminoid ammonia	0.0058 " " "
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 27° C	0.0027 " " "
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.016 " " "
Hardness Temporary	29.4 parts per 100,000 (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )
Hardness Permanent	3.5 parts per 100,000 (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )

Poisonous Metals	
Copper, lead and zinc	Absent
Bacteriological Examinations	
Plate counts on agar.	
3 days at R.T.	3 per ml.
2 days at 37° C	3 per ml.
Probable number of	
Coliform bacilli	
MacConkey 2 days at 37° C	Nil per 100 ml.

The above results show that the water is perfectly suitable for potable use.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered, although there will always be, of necessity, a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into septic tanks or are provided with earth closets.

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated in the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the North West of the town, and were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000 and continue to function satisfactorily.

The effluent, which discharges into the river Marden, just below Hazelton Mill, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below the Sewage works, is normally up to the required standard

A sample of the final effluent was taken on the 28th July last by the County Sanitary Inspector on behalf of the Wiltshire County Council, and he reported that:

“These Works were found in excellent condition with no accumulations of sludge or screenings.”

The Analyst's report in detail on the sample is as follows:

#### Appearance.

Very slight greenish yellow tinge. Almost clear. Earthy smell.

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.90	parts per 100,000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.27	” ” ”
Chlorine (as chlorides)	23.25	” ” ”
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	38.4	” ” ”
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)	1.1	” ” ”
Nitrate		marked reaction
Nitrogen in Nitrite & Nitrate	2.5	parts per 100,000
Dissolved solids	93.0	” ” ”
Suspended solids	3.2	” ” ”
<hr/>		
Total solids	96.2	

Dissolved Oxygen absorbed after 5 days incubation  
(B.O.D) 1.23  
"Impurity" figure 19

### **Stability Test.**

Does not blacken or become offensive when incubated 48 hours at blood heat.

This is a satisfactory effluent showing fairly good oxidation.

(signed) Waterfall & O'Brien.

The number of houses not connected to the main drainage system at the end of 1947 was 93 or 5.77% of all the inhabited houses in the district.

The condition of the outfall sewer, which has been in existence for more than 60 years, gives rise to constant anxiety, particularly where it runs parallel with and/or close to the river Marden.

The length of town sewers is approximately 9 miles to which must be added the length of the outfall sewer and effluent sewer from the outfall works to the river, approximately 2 miles.

### **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

House refuse is collected weekly from every house, under contract, the receptacles being placed at the kerbside by the householder. The Town Council provide the tip which is situated about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town in a north easterly direction. The refuse is dealt with on the "Bradford" system and causes no nuisance.

### **SALVAGE.**

A weekly collection of Salvage has been in operation since June, 1940. The tonnage collected so far is  $1467\frac{1}{2}$  tons valued at £4340 0 0.

A collection of kitchen waste has been in operation for four years. There are 50 communal bins placed at strategic points throughout the district. The waste is sold in a raw state to National Bye-Products Ltd., and dry rendered in a solvent extraction plant in Messrs. C. & T. Harris' Bye-Products factory in the Borough and sold by them to local farmers.

The communal bins are brought in periodically and steam sterilised.

## HOUSING.

The Town Council have erected to date 327 houses under the various Housing Acts since 1919 (including 4 at Quemerdorf taken over from the former Calne R.D.C. in the Borough extension of 1934 and 2 houses in the Pippin sold to owner/occupiers). Also included in this number are 36 houses at Abberd erected since 1945; with a further 28 nearing completion. The Council also owns 13 other houses in the district. In addition the Town Council have advanced loans to owners/occupiers under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923, in respect of a further 28 houses. Under the Housing Act, 1923, lump sum payments have been made in 57 cases and the Council have subsidised 12 owners under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1924.

Sixteen houses have been requisitioned under the Defence Regulations and two houses are rented (including a former Air Ministry hut).

In short, out of a total of all houses (1469) with a Rateable Value of £25 or under, the Borough Council have either erected, own, or are interested in, no less than 456 or 31%.

Eight houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

One case of overcrowding was abated by the voluntary interchanging of Council house tenancies arranged through the Council's rent collector and one case by moving the family concerned into a Council house which became vacant when the tenant left the district.

Under the scheme for the Control of Civil Building, 164 licences were issued for housing repairs, 76 for work other than housing, 3 for new dwellings and 1 for conversion and adaptation of building into dwelling house, to the total value of £15,117 5. 0.

## INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

A rodent operator is employed to act jointly as between the Borough and the adjoining Calne and Chippenham Rural District in the proportion of 20% and 80%.

Under the terms of Local Authority Circular N.S. No. 12 the systematic treatment known as "block control" was carried out in the early part of the year. A survey was made of each section including dwelling houses, business premises, Corporation Depot, refuse tip, river banks and sewers.

A number of minor infestations were found together with four major infestations and all were dealt with.

A second maintenance treatment of the sewers was carried out at a later date under the terms of Local Authority Circulars N.S. Nos. 11, 13 and 15. A very good poison "take" was recorded. The estimated number of rats destroyed being between 60 and 70.

In the early autumn, a further treatment of the sewers was undertaken extending over one week comprising three pre-bait days, one poison day and one inspection day. An estimated kill of 120 rats was made.

During the year, the estimated number of rats destroyed in the district was 1,300.

Several large retail food-stores as well as the Bacon Factory, have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the overriding supervision of the rodent operator, and there is close co-operation between all parties concerned.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

### Meat

Since 7th May 1943, all slaughtering of animals to provide meat for human consumption has been centralised at Chippenham.

There is a part-time Veterinary Inspector employed at the local Bacon Factory who reports regularly to the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, the number of licensed slaughtermen in the district is 22. They are all employed at Messrs. C. & T. Harris's Bacon Factory.

There are two holders of Game Licences.

The amount of meat condemned by the Sanitary Inspector in the town was 3 cwt. 3 qrs. 9 lbs. 6 oz. of beef (bone taint).

### Fish

There are two retailers of fresh fish and two fried-fish establishments in the district. The supply has been fair throughout the year, having regard to the difficult circumstances prevailing.

The trade is carried on satisfactorily.

## Milk

There is one producer of "Accredited" milk and six other cow keepers in the district.

Two retailers hold Dealers' Bottling Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and one retailer has a Dealers' Retailing Licence to use the designations "Pasteurised" and "Tuberculin Tested" Milk, which is bottled in a neighbouring district.

There are also two retailers of ordinary milk resident in the district and two who operate from without.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Milk is supplied daily, during term, to the Secondary, Senoir, Junior and Infant schools in the town.

No points have arisen during the year to which special attention need be drawn.

## Ice Cream

Seven premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, two of which are registered for the manufacture as well as for sale.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced getting samples to the analyst within a resonable time, but it is hoped to be able to make at least temporary arrangements at an early date.

The two manufacturers carry out their obligations in a satisfactory manner. The supplies to the other retailers, which are all pre-packed, are very irregular.

## Other Foods

During the year, 1,090 tins, bottles or jars of foodstuffs were condemned owing to the contents having become unfit through blown or damaged tins, faulty cappings, etc., also 10½ lbs of margarine; 5 lbs of cheese; 6 boxes of prunes weighing 1 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs; 2 boxes dried peaches weighing 1 qr. 27 lbs.; 25 bags of flour weighing 2 qrs. 19 lbs.; 2 bags potato flour weighing 2 qrs. 24 lbs.; 2 bags macaroni weighing 2 cwts.; 2 bags of coffee beans weighing 2 cwts. and 102 small puddings.

The food shops (including the five registered bakehouses) and vehicles are inspected from time to time. No official action has been necessary, either with regard to the vehicles, shops or the sanitary conveniences used in connection therewith.

One case of food poisoning has been reported under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

## **SHOPS**

No Statutory action has been necessary under the Shops Act, 1934.

The number of inspections made for this purpose during the year was 45.

## Factories Act 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 which are required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of that Act with respect to the matters under Part I and Part VIII which are administered by the District Council.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Number of		M/c line No. (7)
				Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1		5	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. ...	2	54	6	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3		3	—	—	3
<b>TOTAL</b> ...		54	14	—	—	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	..	4	1	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	...	5	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	6	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	7	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	8	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) insufficient	...	9	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	10	1	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	11	—	—	—	11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	...	12	—	—	—	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	60	2	2	—	60

So far as Part VIII of the Act is concerned (Section 110 and 111—Homework, etc.) it is a "Nil" Report.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN

In addition to the usual re-inspection, 261 children in the Routine Age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these, 99 (37.93%) were found to be of good nutrition, 149 (57.09%) were Normal or Fair, and 13 (4.98%) were found to be of poor nutrition.

Although the above figures are reasonably satisfactory, it has been noticed that many children, particularly boys, show signs of fatigue. During the summer many children do not obtain sufficient rest and in consequence their physical and mental progress is retarded.

## CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

**NIL**

Average attendance October, 1947 ... ... ... ... 800  
 No taking milk on a day in Oct on the basis of  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd pt. per child 599 (74.9%). Pasteurised milk supplied to 599 children. Every school had a supply of fresh milk daily, provided free of cost, but limited for the present to one-third pint per child.

School milk supplies are sampled by the County Sanitary Inspector for biological examination four times a year and endeavours are made by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake clinical examinations of the Accredited and Non-designated herds four times annually. This is not always possible, however, owing to shortage of staff.

## SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Number of children receiving mid-day meals at school :  
 Full or part payment — 161      Free — 12

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Up to the end of the year the following number of children have been successfully immunised:  
 Ages 1—4 ... 238 (61.02%)      Ages 5—14 ... 736 (100%)  
 Total ... 974 (90.1%)

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

The following is a summary of the year's work under article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Dwelling houses inspected	...	...	394
Re-inspection and visits	...	...	182
Inspections for housing records	...	...	45
Registered and licensed premises inspected	...	...	94

Miscellaneous sanitary duties		
involving visits	...	138
Complaints received and inspected	...	193
The tabulated list of major improvements is as follows:—		
Number of existing premises connected		
to main drainage system	...	3
Number of new houses connected to		
main drainage system	...	43
Number of new houses connected to		
main water supply	...	44
New drain lengths constructed		
and tested	...	96
Drain obstructions cleared	...	52
W.C. obstructions cleared	...	4
New W.C.s' constructed to		
existing houses	...	8
W.C. pans repaired or renewed	...	39
New sinks, baths and lavatory basins		
fixed to existing houses	...	6
Houses disinfected	...	6
Houses re-decorated internally	...	24
Floors repaired or renewed	...	25
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	55
Dampness remedied	...	9
Accumulations of manure removed	...	3
Nuisance re pig keeping abated	...	1
Number of cases of overcrowding abated		2
Complaints re water supply dealt with		5
Walls plastered	...	15
Ceilings repaired or replastered	...	27
Rain water pipes or gutters renewed	...	39
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	...	103
Waste pipes cleared, repaired or renewed		30
Miscellaneous	...	192









